

I understand that the LD50 Test, in which animals are force fed chemicals to estimate the dose needed to kill 50% of them, is slowly being phased out internationally and is being replaced with tests that use fewer animals or none at all. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is suggesting going one step further and replacing the animal tests completely with in-vitro cell culture tests. Scientists at the NIEHS have agreed to a partial implementation of in vitro testing, to set a "starting dose" for the lethal poisoning tests, which would further reduce the number of animals in the tests. I am writing to ask you to begin efforts to completely replace lethal dose testing with non-animal, in vitro testing methods. Thank you.

--

Chandra Moira Beal